

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 AF-08

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /089 W

----- 068261

R 201841Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4216

INFO DHEW

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24401

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, IOC, USOE

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF INTER-NATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION (IBE) AT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE, NAIROBI, OCT 26-NOV 30, 1976. (AGENDA ITEM 64.1)

1. SUMMARY: ELECTION OF 11 MEMBER STATES TO THE COUNCIL OF THE IBE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE 19TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. US TERM EXPIRES IN NOVEMBER 1976. TO ENHANCE POSSIBILITY OF US BEING REELECTED TO THE COUNCIL, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE US TAKE POSITIVE ACTION NOW. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: U.S. WAS REELECTED TO 21-MEMBER COUNCIL OF IBE AT THE 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 1972. ITS 4 YEAR TERM, ALONG WITH TEN OTHER MEMBER STATES (FRG, FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, ROMANIA, MALAYSIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TOGO, IRAQ, ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL, EXPIRES AT THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. TERMS OF TEN MEMBER STATES ELECTED AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1974 (SWITZERLAND, USSR, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KENYA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, ALGERIA, AND PERU) EXPIRE IN 1978. MEMBER STATES MAY BE REELECTED FOR SUCCESSIVE TERMS. VOTE IS BY SECRET BALLOT. PRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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SENT GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION IS EUROPE-7, ASIA-4,

AFRICA-5, ARAB-2, LATIN AMERICA-3.

3. 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (18/C RESOLUTION 1.53)
RECOMMENDED FUTURE ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL
INCLUDE CRITERIA OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRI-
BUTION AND REQUESTED THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SO THAT
ELECTIONS "CAN BE HELD ACCORDING TO A NEW SYSTEM OF
ELECTORAL PROCEDURE". THE 98TH EXECUTIVE BOARD
(DEC. 98 EX/6.2) RECOMMENDED THAT THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE, WHEN CALLED UPON TO DECIDE THE COM-
POSITION OF BODIES OTHER THAN ORGANS OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE, THE MEMBERS OF WHICH IT HAS TO ELECT OR
DESIGNATE, TO ENSURE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL AND
CULTURAL DISTRIBUTION. 99TH EXECUTIVE BOARD
(DEC. 99 EX/5.2.3) RECOMMENDED THAT THE ABOVE
RECOMMENDATION APPLIES TO THE IBE COUNCIL AND THAT
BOTH RECOMMENDATIONS BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF
THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. DISCUSSION: ALTHOUGH NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE IS
NOT EMPOWERED TO CHANGE THE STATUTES OF IBE, OR
ESTABLISH "EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL REPRE-
SENTATION" IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A MOVE MAY BE INIT-
IATED BY THIRD WORLD MEMBER STATES,
INFORMALLY IF NOT FORMALLY, TO OBTAIN MORE EQUITABLE
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION THAN NOW EXISTS. IF
SUCCESSFUL, SUCH A MOVE COULD POSSIBLY REDUCE
EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION FROM 7 TO 5 MAKING US RE-
ELECTION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. PERMDEL'S BEST ESTIMATE
AT THIS TIME IS THAT FRANCE AND UK BOTH WISH TO
RETURN TO MEMBERSHIP. SCANDINAVIAN MEMBER STATES
EXPECTED TO PUT UP ONE CANDIDATE. EASTERN BLOC WILL
PROBABLY SUPPORT AT LEAST TWO CANDIDATES. THE THIRD
WORLD IS ALREADY LINING UP SUPPORT, E.G., TANZANIA,
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TOGO.

5. FACTORS IN FAVOR OF US BEING RE-ELECTED TO COUNCIL
ARE (A) US CONTRIBUTES APPROXIMATELY 50 OF DATA,
PUBLICATIONS, INFORMATION, ETC. RECEIVED BY IBE FROM
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MEMBER STATES (B) THE NEED FOR THIS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE
(C) PRESENT DIRECTOR, LEO FERNIG, STRONGLY FAVORS CON-
TINUED US PARTICIPATION AND WOULD SUPPORT SAME BEHIND
THE SCENES, BUT NOT PUBLICLY (D) USSR IS PRESENTLY ON
COUNCIL AND SOME MAY SEE DESIRABILITY OF US MEMBERSHIP
AS A COUNTER BALANCE.

6. FACTORS MITIGATING AGAINST RE-ELECTION OF US

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ARE (A) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WOULD
DECREASE NUMBER OF EUROPEAN SEATS (B) HIGH DEGREE OF
EUROPEAN GROUP COMPETITION FOR EXISTING SEATS (C) US
WILL HAVE JUST COMPLETED MANY YEARS OF CONTINUOUS
MEMBERSHIP (D) US NON PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENT COULD
BE TRANSLATED INTO REBUFF OF US BY MEMBER STATES ON
MEMBERSHIP IN SELECTED UNESCO BODIES.

7. RECOMMENDATION: USPERMDEL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS
THAT US TAKE IMMEDIATE POSITIVE ACTION TO GAIN
SUPPORT OF OTHER MEMBER STATES FOR ITS RE-ELECTION
TO THE IBE COUNCIL AT THE 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE. SPECIFICALLY, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT
(A) STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH USOE (LEESTMA),
INITIATE LETTERS TO OTHER MEMBER STATES INFORMING
THEM OF US INTEREST IN BEING RE-ELECTED TO THE IBE
COUNCIL (PERHAPS GIVING RATIONALE) AND SOLICITING
THEIR SUPPORT, (B) STATE GRANT PERMISSION TO
PERMDEL TO APPROACH OTHER PERMANENT DELEGATIONS
VERBALLY AND IN WRITING TO EXPRESS US DESIRE TO BE
RE-ELECTED AND SOLICIT SUPPORT. (C) STATE AND USOE
THOROUGHLY BRIEF US DELEGATION TO 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE ON THIS ISSUE AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO US

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

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8. PERMDEL FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT THE ACTION
RECOMMENDED IN PARA 7 ABOVE BE EXTENDED TO THE
RE-ELECTION OF THE US TO OTHER UNESCO BODIES, E.G.,
THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL OF THE
PROGRAMME ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE AND THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL ON THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLO-
GICAL PROGRAMME.

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